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Succession

Margie Cooke Porteus

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Succession

By Margie Cooke Porteus

1890-

With her parents, eight-year-old Frankie
Came to Indian Territory.
For entertainment she rode her pony,
Picked wild flowers,
Played with her corn cob doll.
She learned to twist a coon from a tree
Attended school in a dugout,
Married at sixteen.

1904

Lillian, Frankie's oldest,
Was born in a one-room cabin,
Played with one small doll,
Walked to a one-room school,
With responsibility she did her chores,
Helped with younger ones,
Married at nineteen.


1927

Margie, Frankie's youngest,
Was born in a hospital,
Owned several dolls,
Played hide-and-seek with neighbor kids
Under the street-corner light,
Was spoiled by older siblings,
Married at twenty-one.

1953

Six-year-old Ann, Frankie's grandchild,
Flew to Oklahoma for a visit.
Seeing the Amish, exclaimed,
"Grandma, there are Pilgrims here!"
Having seen too many cowboy movies,
Asked if friendly, blanketed Ethel Littleman
Was a good Indian or a bad Indian.
Loved hearing stories of olden times.

1988

Cindy, Frankie's great-granddaughter,
Muses, "You say I look like Grandmother Frankie.
I wonder if I could
Endure her hardships?
Love as she loved?
Change with the times?
Understand my children as she did?
Wish I had known her." 

{-8} $2 + 3 = 5$ CAT

 $\sqrt{3}$

(MARGIE COOKE PORTEUS--
formerly of Thomas and a SOSU
alumna — lives in Paonia,
Colorado, following an extended
teaching career.)

ART BY LUCIANO CERDA